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EA-02-10
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DECISION RECORD

for

Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Asphalt Paving

Environmental Assessment No. EA-02-10

United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Oregon State Office
Eugene District

BACKGROUND

The Tyrrell Seed Orchard is a centralized tree seed orchard designed to provide genetically improved Douglas-fir seed for BLM's Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eugene districts and for ten private timber and seed companies. The purpose of the action is to improve access to the parking lot and main access road from the Siuslaw River Road to allow better entry to the orchard facility. There is a need for paving to accommodate daily use by orchard personnel, delivery vehicles, visitors, commercial forestry vehicles, contractors, and the movement of large-scale farm equipment. Cone production is expected to dramatically increase in the near future, with a proportional increase in orchard traffic. Improved parking and road access will also benefit visitors who use the forest succession interpretive trail and picnic grounds, located south of the orchard office.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for the asphalt paving project. Copies of this decision are posted on the Eugene internet WEB site at: <http://www.edo.or.blm.gov/nepa>

DECISION

Based on the analysis contained in the EA, I have decided to implement the asphalt paving proposal with the Proposed Action (Application of asphalt paving material to the orchard access road and parking lots), herein known as the "selected action".

The following mitigation/conservation measures will be applied to prevent undesirable impacts to the adjacent environment, nearby neighbors, private property, and orchard workers.

- All applicable local, state, and Federal laws would be strictly followed.
- Asphalt would be applied with the prescribed environmental conditions stated in the contract.
- Straw bales would be present on site in the event of unexpected rainfall to minimize erosion potential.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

The alternatives considered in detail included the proposed action (Application of asphalt paving material to the orchard access road and parking lots) and alternative A (No Action). A complete description of the alternatives analyzed in detail are contained in the EA (pages 3-4).

REASONS FOR THE DECISION

Considering public comment, the content of the EA, and the management direction contained in the Resource Management Plan, I have decided to implement the selected action as described above. My rationale for this decision follows:

- The selected action provides the best means to address the need as stated in the EA (page 1). Asphalt paving would provide better long-term access for orchard visitors, neighbors, and federal-related activities. Standing water and management of existing potholes would be minimized following paving.
- The selected action is consistent with applicable land use plans, policies, and programs (EA page 2).
- This action has no adverse energy impact, as outlined in the President's National Energy Policy (Executive Order 13212).

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Copies of the EA and draft FONSI were made available to the public for review and comment between, February 15, 2002 and March 15, 2002. No comments were received.

CONSULTATION

Consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) was not required. The proposed action for coho salmon, critical habitat and essential fish habitat is covered under the programmatic biological opinion for coastal coho salmon issued by NMFS, issued June 4, 1999 and re-issued December 21, 2001.

PROTEST PROVISIONS

This forest management decision may be protested under 43 CFR 5003 - Administrative Remedies. In accordance with 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this project will not be subject to protest until the notice of decision is published in the Eugene Register-Guard on May 22, 2002. This published notice of decision will constitute the decision document for the purpose of protests of this project. 43 CFR 5003.2(b). Protests of the decision must be filed with this office within 15 days after publication of the notice of decision.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

If no protest is received by the close of business (4:15 P.M. Pacific Standard Time) on June 6, 2002, this decision will become final. If a timely protest is received, this decision will be reconsidered in light of the protest and other pertinent information available in accordance with 43 CFR 5003.3.

Approved by: Steven A. Calish
For Julia Dougan
Eugene District Manager

5/16/02
Date

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
OREGON STATE OFFICE
EUGENE DISTRICT**

Finding of No Significant Impact
for
Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard Asphalt Paving
Environmental Assessment No. EA-02-10

The Eugene District of the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) has analyzed a proposal for asphalt paving at the Travis Tyrrell Seed Orchard in an environmental assessment (EA OR090-02-10). The Tyrrell Seed Orchard is a centralized tree seed orchard designed to provide genetically improved Douglas-fir seed for BLM's Coos Bay, Roseburg and Eugene districts and for ten private timber and seed companies. The purpose of the action is to improve access to the parking lot and main access road from the Siuslaw River Road to allow better entry to the orchard facility. The EA considered a Proposed Action (Application of asphalt paving material to the orchard access road and parking lots), and Alternative A (no action).

A summary of the environmental effects (as discussed in the EA) follows:

- The Proposed Action would have no significant impacts on social and economic environment in the region or the locality (EA, pp. 4-5).
- The EA analysis concludes that the application and mitigation measures would insure that the Proposed Action would have a negligible effect on public health and safety (EA, pp. 5-6).
- There are no unique characteristics, such as prime or unique farmlands or wild and scenic rivers within the project area (EA, p. 4).
- Impacts on the quality of the human environment would not be highly controversial.
- There are no highly uncertain, unique, or unknown risks involved.
- The Proposed Alternative would involve only a single asphalt application and would not establish any precedent for future action (EA, p. 3-4).
- The EA analysis considered cumulative impacts and did not identify any that might be significant (EA, pp. 6-8).
- There are no known cultural resources within the project area (EA, p. 4).

- The Proposed Action is covered under the programmatic biological opinion for coastal coho salmon issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service, issued June 4, 1999 and re-issued December 21, 2001. The EA analysis concluded that no impact would be expected to aquatic habitat or aquatic organisms from paving (EA, pp. 8).
- The Proposed Action would not violate Federal, State, or local law requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Determination:

On the basis of the information contained in the EA, and all other information available to me, it is my determination that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have significant environmental impacts not already addressed in the *Eugene District Proposed Resource Management Plan/Environmental Impact Statement* (November 1994), and the *Eugene District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan* (June 1995), with which this EA is in conformance, and does not, in and of itself, constitute a major federal action having a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, an EIS or a supplement to the existing EIS is not necessary and will not be prepared.

Approved by: Steven A. Calish 5/16/02
for Julia Dougan Date
Eugene District Manager